

Welcome

**PLACER COUNTY
GRAND JURY
MEET-N-GREET 2015**

www.placergrandjury.org

2014-2015 Placer County Grand Jury

Meet-n-Greet Purpose

- ❖ Provide a brief overview of the Placer County Grand Jury
- ❖ Help you to make an informed decision to apply for grand jury service

Grand Jury History

- ❖ England, 12th Century
 - Anglo Saxon – watchdog for local government
- ❖ United States, 1635
 - First Grand Jury impaneled in the Massachusetts Bay Colony
- ❖ California Constitution, Article 1, § 23
 - Established the California Grand Jury System in 1850 as we know it today

Mission – A Watchdog Function

- ❖ Help local government be more responsive and efficient
- ❖ Monitor performance of county, city, and special district entities within the county
- ❖ Conduct research; interview public officials, experts, citizenry; inspect facilities
- ❖ Publish reports with recommendations to increase efficiency and effectiveness of government services
- ❖ Criminal investigations at the request of the DA

Concepts

- ❖ Confidentiality
 - Oath – Deliberations sworn to secrecy for life
- ❖ Collegial Body
 - Meeting of equals; decisions as a body
- ❖ Independent Body
 - Most autonomous of all government institutions

*“What happens in the Grand Jury room
stays in Grand Jury room”*

Instill Government Accountability

- ❖ Publish investigation and inspection reports
- ❖ Published responses to Grand Jury reports
- ❖ Entities can respond to Findings by either:
 - Agree
 - Disagree wholly or partially
- ❖ Entities responses to Recommendation(s) can be:
 - Has been implemented
 - Will be implemented
 - Will not be implemented

Investigations

- ❖ By law the GJ **must** inspect physical conditions and management of jails and detention facilities within the county
- ❖ By law the GJ **must** inquire into misconduct of public officials
- ❖ **May** Investigate:
 - Schools and libraries
 - Counties and cities
 - Local agencies and special districts
- ❖ **Not** within Grand Jury jurisdiction:
 - Federal agencies
 - State agencies (excluding prisons)
 - Superior Court system
 - School district personnel records, curriculum and policies

Sources of Investigations

- ❖ Citizen complaints
- ❖ Concerns raised by Grand Jury members
- ❖ Responses to previous Grand Jury report:
 - Reporting requirements
 - Potential further investigation
- ❖ Required inspections (public jails and detention facilities)
- ❖ Carry-over recommendations from prior Grand Juries
- ❖ Criminal hearings upon district attorney request
 - May result in indictment(s)

Selective Reporting

- ❖ Grand Jury is selective in what it investigates and reports
- ❖ Evaluation criteria for proposed investigations:
 - Scope – complexity
 - Importance or impact on county citizens
 - Significance – itself compared to other potential investigations
 - Existing legal activity
- ❖ Grand Jury:
 - Resource availability and timeline review
 - Expertise

Grand Jury Committees

❖ Audit & Finance

- How government entities in Placer County spend taxpayer money

❖ Criminal Justice

- Jail inspections
- Placer County Sheriff's Department
- Probation Department
- Municipal law enforcement agencies

❖ Cities

- Auburn, Colfax, Lincoln, Loomis, Rocklin, Roseville

❖ Health and Welfare

- Juvenile detention center
- Child protective services
- County and City welfare agencies
- Health and Human Services for the county
- Adult systems of care

Grand Jury Committees

❖ County Administration

- Unincorporated areas of the county government and businesses

❖ Special Districts

- Water, fire, school, parks districts

❖ Continuity and Editorial

- Helps committees write reports
- Keeps records of Grand Jury business and history

❖ Schools and Libraries

- School districts in Placer County
- School programs
- Individual schools

Types of Meetings

- ❖ Full Panel Meetings
 - All 19 jurors
- ❖ Committee Meetings
 - 6 to 7 jurors
- ❖ Interviews with Witnesses
 - Minimum of 2 jurors
 - Held in GJ Meeting Rooms or at Witnesses Location
- ❖ Facility Inspections

Time Commitment

- ❖ Full Panel – twice each month
- ❖ Regularly-scheduled Committee Meetings:
 - 2 times each month
 - Jurors may be on as many as three committees
- ❖ Interviews, investigations, inspections
- ❖ Meetings normally held during working hours
- ❖ Grand Jury Room – DeWitt Center, Auburn
- ❖ Average time commitment varies: 40– 50 hours/mo.

Research Sources

- ❖ County Records
- ❖ Agendas and Minutes
- ❖ Statutes, Ordinance or Code
- ❖ Policies and Procedures
- ❖ Financial Records
- ❖ Department Reports
- ❖ Libraries
 - Local
 - Legal
 - Grand Jury
- ❖ Audits
 - Internal & External
 - Management & Fiscal
- ❖ Reports
 - Outside
 - Prior Grand Jury

Minimum Qualifications to Be a Juror

- ❖ Citizen of USA—18 years old
- ❖ Resident of Placer County for one year
- ❖ Sound judgment, fair character
- ❖ Sufficient knowledge of English language
- ❖ Not concurrently acting as a trial juror
- ❖ Never convicted of felony
- ❖ Not currently serving as elected official
- ❖ Not been discharged as grand juror within the past year

Personal Skills for a Successful Grand Jury Experience

- ❖ Strong inter-personal skills
- ❖ Work in collaboration with others
- ❖ Be able to “agree to disagree” as the Grand Jury speaks with one voice
- ❖ Ability to stick to deadlines
- ❖ Patience

Technology Skills

❖ Essential Computer Skills:

- Using a personal computer, tablet, or smart phone
- Microsoft Word – writing, tracking changes, formatting
- Email – Receiving / Sending messages, documents
- Browser / Internet – Research

❖ Jury Communication System

- Secure email for Grand Jury Communication
- Secure file sharing

Training and Compensation

❖ Training

- Required two-day Grand Jury Training on July 20 & 21st, in Sacramento
 - First 10 alternates also attend training
- Three-hour Jury Communication System (JCS) Training, in Auburn
- One-day Report Writing Training (November 2015), in Sacramento

❖ Compensation

- Mileage for actual miles traveled to and from training, committee meetings, and interviews
- Attendance at each committee meeting and interview
- You must complete and submit reimbursement forms in order to be compensated

Applying for the Grand Jury

- ❖ Applications being received now
 - Download from: www.placergrandjury.org > Grand Jury Forms
http://www.placer.courts.ca.gov/grandjury/grandjury_forms.html
- ❖ Deadline to apply - May 15, 2015 @ 3:00 PM
- ❖ Minimum qualification requirements – Calif. Penal Code §896
- ❖ Early to mid June 2015 – Court Executive Office conducts brief interviews to discuss qualifications
- ❖ Mid to late June 2015 – Receive a Summons to appear for possible jury selection
- ❖ First week in July, 2015 – panel of 19 jurors selected
 - Chosen by lottery; some holdovers from prior year
 - All applicants who are not selected are placed on Alternate List
 - First meeting held immediately after swearing in
- ❖ July 1, 2015 > June 30, 2016 – term of service

For More Information

- ❖ Placer County Grand Jury website: www.placergrandjury.org
- ❖ California Grand Jurors' Association: <http://cgja.org/>
- ❖ California Grand Jury News: <http://cgja.blogspot.com/>

Thank You

Any Questions?

http://www.placer.courts.ca.gov/grandjury/grandjury_forms.html